

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 IGA-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 STR-08 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 /150 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DWBORN:HME

EXT. 20701 8/1/73

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN

USDA/FAS, MR. THOMASSEN

USDA/EMS:LMEAD

AID/ASIA/SA:AFORD

----- 115230

R 012156Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SECRETARY BUTZ

REF: STATE 138498

1. INDIAN AMB. T.N. KAUL CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON
AGRICULTURE SECRETARY EARL BUTZ ON JULY 30. IN 30-MINUTE
CORDIAL CONVERSATION, AMB. KAUL:

A. REPORTED INDIA HAD BOUGHT 1.3 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT
AND 260,000 TONS OF COARSE GRAINS FROM US, PLUS 250,000
TONS OF COARSE GRAIN FROM ARGENTINA; AND STILL NEEDED
SOME 2 MILLION TONS WHEAT AND 1 MILLION TONS COARSE GRAIN;

B. NOTED CONTINUING PURCHASING PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIA
SUPPLY MISSION WITH US GRAIN DEALERS SELLING ONLY IN
RELATIVELY SMALL LOTS AND RELUCTANT GIVE COMMITMENTS ON
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FUTURE SALES;

C. NOTED INDIAN NEED TO PURCHASE TALLOW AND EDIBLE OIL FROM US;

D. TRUSTED SECRETARY BUTZ APPRECIATED FACT INDIA NEEDED US FOODGRAINS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES BUYING FOR CATTLE FEED; AND

E. SOUGHT ADVICE RE TIMING OF PURCHASES IN LIGHT POSSIBLE PRICE CHANGES.

2. RE TIMING OF PURCHASES, SECRETARY BUTZ, NOTING AMB. WOULD HAVE TO MAKE OWN DECISION, SAID US WHEAT AND CORN CROPS LOOKED GOOD. SECRETARY ALSO NOTED NEXT USDA CROP REPORT WOULD BE RELEASED AUGUST 9. THAT REPORT ON SUPPLY SIDE COULD AFFECT PRICES, BUT, OF COURSE, DEMAND ALSO KEY FACTOR.

3. ASIDE FROM VERY GENERAL EXPRESSION BY AMB. KAUL TO EFFECT GOI WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN ACCOMPLISHING ITS OBJECTIVES, AID NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED OR REQUESTED.

4. INDIAN DCM GONSALVES TOLD DEPTOFF JULY 31 THAT INDIAN EMBASSY FEELS NEED TO REPORT TO GOI THAT EMBASSY HAS EXPLORED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEED FOODGRAIN PROCUREMENT.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION JULY 31 INDIAN SUPPLY MISSION OFFICER TOLD DEPTOFF ISM TEMPORARILY OUT OF MARKET TO ASSESS PRICE SITUATION AND SAID AT PRESENT PRICE LEVELS THEY MIGHT DECIDE THAT ALREADY-COMPLETED PURCHASES WERE ADEQUATE TO MEET NEAR TERM NEEDS. ROGERS

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